

Risk Assessment Chelmsford Canoe Club

Organiser: Owen Shephard-Wyatt Activity: Chelmsford Hasler Race Date: 19.10.2025 Location: River Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation				SIGNED: Owen Shephard-Wyatt DATE: 26/8/2025			
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	What are you doing to control the Risk	What further action do you need to take to control the risk?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Date complete	Additional comments
Drowning through capsize (Generic Risk)	Competitors and safety boats	All paddlers in Division 7 or below to wear Buoyancy aids. All craft to be fitted with buoyancy sufficient to support craft and paddler. Competition rules are to give aid of any paddler in distress. Geoff Sanders will be fully marshalled Support boats at start and to sweep lightning race. Marshalls with throw lines and rescue boat at Barnes Lock portage. Marshalls at Turns	All marshals briefed in rescue plan and competitors briefed on safety. Review of river conditions and apply compulsory BA rule if needed.	Race organiser	Before boats get on water		
Hypothermia/ Hyperthermia.	All	Briefing advises paddlers to wear appropriate clothing. First Aiders to be present.	Review of conditions and changes made if needed	Race organiser	On going		
Collision with other paddlers, overhanging trees & bushes, bridges	Competitors and Safety Boats	Support boats to be in place at start. Paddlers to be reminded at briefing of river right rules and turn directions. Narrow bridge at Sandford to be highlighted in briefing pack	Briefing on overhanging tree 200m from start and other obstacles	Race organiser	Before boats get on water		Start position to be reviewed based on if trees have been cleared

Injury from Lifting/Carrying Equipment	Competitors especially young and those not used to portage	Briefing notes and prior to race to remind paddlers of portage. Marshalls also present to manage crossing. Also briefing advises where support is needed to carry boats at portage this is allowed.	Check condition of pontoon before event	Race organiser	Day before event		
Other River users	Barges, Boats, SUPs, Fishermen,	Essex Waterways informed of race.	Marshal talk to river users at locks	Safety Team	On going		
Moving water River in flood	Competitors	Dynamic Risk Assessment Check of weather and river height readings up stream prior to race.	Making changes if conditions need it.	Race organiser	Before boats get on water		
Vehicle Traffic at Start and Sandford Portage	Competitors Bankside Officials Spectators	Good parking and direct access to river from car park. Marshalls at road crossing Sandford Lock Have "canoe race in progress" signs at Sandford Bridge/Crossing	Signage warning members of the public.	Race organiser	Before competitors arrive		Race pack to show new carpark layout
Injury to Public	Pedestrians, cyclists on towpath	Briefing to advise Paddlers and spectators to be aware of public at portages. Have "Canoe Race in Progress" signs at ERO footpath/cycle path and at Sandford Lock road crossing	Signage warning members of the public.	Race organiser	Before competitors arrive		
Trips, slips and falls on paths, towpath	All	Briefing to draw attention to uneven path at ERO portage for start and dependent on weather briefing to cover awareness of slip hazard on wooden/plastic portages and grass .	Check for hazards morning of race	Race organiser	Before competitors arrive		
Refreshments – Food Poisoning, Burns from Cooking	All	Staff at refreshments to keep hands clean with gel or soap/water. Consumers to be reminded to clean hands after paddling and before eating. BBQ away from club and public access limited to serving table.	Report issues and provide first aid if needed	Safety Team	On going		

Wildlife & Pollution, Weils Disease etc	Competitors	Outside of nesting season. Showers and wash facilities available at club.	Report issues and provide first aid if needed	Safety Team	On going	.	
THIS AREA IS FOR ADDITIONAL RISK ASSESSMEN TS ON THE DAY							